



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



January 10, 2014

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
30-DAY REPORT BACK ON CONTRACT COMPLIANCE STATUS FOR
THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFENDER MONITORING SYSTEM

At the September 10, 2013 Board meeting, the Sheriff was requested to report back every 30 days on contract compliance and program updates for the Los Angeles County Offender Monitoring System (LACOMS) as provided by Sentinel Offender Services, LLC (Sentinel). The current status of the program is outlined below:

- The LACOMS is currently monitoring 136 inmate workers assigned to 23 patrol stations and 6 inmates assigned to treatment service centers utilizing Global Positioning System (GPS) and Radio Frequency (RF) technology.
- Due to the remodeling of some of the patrol stations, event activity on the monitoring system has been greater than expected. This is largely due to poor cell coverage in the interior of the buildings and inmate sleeping quarters that do not have window access. If the device cannot communicate with the software system due to lack of cellular signal reception, the software generates a "Late to Test" signal even though the inmate is within the perimeters of the station zones. No transmission issues with GPS/RF have been reported at the treatment service center locations.
- We continue to receive "Low Battery" alerts; however, we have found that they merely serve as a warning that the device needs to be charged. Sentinel personnel contacts the station jailers and the treatment service center representatives to ensure the devices are immediately charged. In addition,

A Tradition of Service

Sentinel personnel send e-mail alerts to the LACOMS program management team. No alerts were received for unauthorized device removals, "cut and run" or absconders.

- Sentinel conducted site visits and submitted the attached report with their observations and recommendations (Attachment A). Sentinel has recommended the installation of basic telephone lines, which will allow for placement of RF units in proximity to the workers' sleeping quarters, which will significantly reduce unnecessary alerts for the stations that have fair to poor cellular coverage. As a security precaution, these new phone lines can be provided, at no cost to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department), with restricted line access so that they cannot call any number except for our dedicated 800 toll-free line.
- During the month of December, Department personnel assigned to the LACOMS program conducted a review of all LACOMS participants on a weekly basis utilizing Sentinel's web-based monitoring system "Sentrak." Out of approximately 584 audits, 32 low battery alerts and 8 tamper alerts were seen during the viewing sessions. It was discovered that the tamper alerts were the results of the ankle monitor being removed by the station jailer prior to the inmate returning to the Inmate Reception Center (IRC) for release or for disciplinary issues. The multiple low battery alerts were due to the station inmate worker/treatment service center inmates not charging the battery for at least 90 minutes per day. LACOMS personnel telephoned the station jailers and the treatment service center representatives to ascertain if they were contacted by Sentinel regarding the alerts. All calls for tamper issues were received; however, five low battery alerts were not received according to the audit that was conducted.
- Sentinel reviewed our audit findings and advised the Department that the station jailers and treatment service center representatives were not notified regarding the low battery events for one of the following reasons: the battery was placed on charge mode within minutes of the low battery alert and the monitoring report contained old information that failed to purge from the system at the time we were logged into "Sentrak." In order to address the data analysis issues, Sentinel created an application that allows LACOMS personnel to read comments inputted by their technicians, which will assist our personnel with the interpretation of the data.
- Sentinel created a monthly statistical report which captured event data for your review (refer to Attachment B for additional information).
- The cost to the Department for GPS monitoring for the month of November was \$15,907.08.

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Should you have any questions, please contact Chief Eric G. Parra, Custody Services Division, General Population, at (213) 893-5017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leroy D. Baca". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF



Attachment A
Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
Trustee Tracking Program

As part of the on-going operation of this program, site visits were conducted by Sentinel personnel in order to determine supplemental methods of ensuring monitoring of the trustees at the substations across the County. After visiting each station, the following observations were made and a recommended resolution is included.

Altadena Station – Average Client Count: 4

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: Inmates sleep in the dorm room with no access to windows. There is currently one cell unit being tested now which was placed in the Jailer's office.

Recommendation: Set up Cell Home Units for each inmate and place them in the dorm rooms instead of having them in Jailer's office. This will reduce the amount of Leaves and Enters generated by the unit. This will also eliminate zone notification caused by drift occurring due to poor GPS signal while inside dorm room. Create a 500 meter inclusion zone to ensure notification is received if Inmate were to leave. This enhancement allows the department to utilize both GPS and RF technology to achieve redundancy within their program.

Avalon/Catalina Island Station – Average Client Count: 1

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: Inmates sleep in the dorm room with no access to windows. A home unit was not placed in this facility for testing.

Recommendation: The jailer's office and the dorm room are adjacent to each other. Placing a Cell HMU in the dorm room or the Jailer's office would reduce drift during the morning hours when inmate is sleeping in the dorm room. Create a 500 meter inclusion zone to ensure notification is received if Inmate were to leave.

Carson Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 8

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: Dorm rooms are located 15 – 20 feet from Jailer's office. The dorm rooms do not have access to windows which impacts GPS point reception. This causes issues with GPS Drift.



Recommendation: Set up Cell Home Units for each inmate and place them in the dorm rooms. This will reduce the possibility of Leaves and Enters being generated by the unit. This will also eliminate zone notification signals caused by GPS point drift occurring due to poor GPS signal reception while inside dorm room. Create a 500 meter inclusion zone to ensure notification is received if Inmate were to leave.

City of Industry Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 8

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: Inmates sleep in the dorm room, which has no access to windows. GPS coverage is poor during the night while the inmate is sleeping causing issues with GPS point drift. One home unit has been placed here for testing and is working well. Inmate activity shows as home from 2100 – 0700 the following day.

Recommendation: Set up Home Units for each inmate and place them in the dorm rooms. This will reduce the possibility of Leaves and Enters being generated by the unit. This will also eliminate zone notifications caused by drift occurring due to poor GPS signal while inside dorm room. Create a 500 meter inclusion zone to ensure notification is received if Inmate were to leave.

Compton Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 8

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: Inmates are housed in Carson, but work in Compton and are transported between each site daily. The same dorm considerations that apply to Carson should apply to this population.

Recommendation: Each inmate should be provided a cell HMU. This would provide data while the inmate is in the Carson station of the leaves and enters from the dorm room. An inclusion zone has been created for the Compton Station so we know when a person leaves and returns from this facility. The inclusion zone should be increased to 500 meters to reduce the possibility of erroneous leaves due to drift while in the facility.

Crescenta Valley Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 3

Cell Coverage: Poor

Berthing Situation: Inmates sleep in dorm rooms that are below ground (basement). This creates an issue with cell coverage any time the inmate enters the dorm room. The Jailer's office is not within close proximity to the berthing area, which makes the home unit ineffective from that location. A cell unit will not work in the basement because of cell coverage issues.



Recommendations: In order for a unit to work properly in this substation, multiple monitored landlines must be delivered to the jail in order for a land line home unit to be installed in the actual dorm room. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while in the dorm room. GPS is still an effective solution when the inmate is on the main floor of the substation.

East LA Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 10

Cell Coverage: Fair

Berthing Situation: Dorm rooms are 50 to 75 feet from Jailer's office. Jailer has agreed to have home units installed in the dorm rooms. Cell coverage should not be an issue; a Cell HMU will work well in this substation.

Recommendation: Install a cell unit in this dorm for the inmates. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while in the dorm room. The inclusion zone should be increased to 500 meters to reduce the possibility of erroneous leaves due to drift while inside the facility.

Lakewood Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 10

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: Dorm rooms are 30 - 40 feet from Jailer's office. Jailer has agreed to have home units installed in the dorm rooms. Cell coverage should not be an issue; a Cell HMU has worked well in this substation. A Cell HMU was installed in the dorm room and the drift issue was no longer an issue when used in conjunction with GPS.

Recommendation: Install a cell unit in this dorm for the inmates. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while in the dorm room. The inclusion zone should be increased to 500 meters to reduce the possibility of erroneous leaves due to drift while inside the facility.

Lancaster Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 10

Cell Coverage: Poor

Berthing Situation: Inmates sleep on main floor, but cell coverage is an issue. This causes multiple TM LTT issues as well as GPS point drift.

Recommendations: In order for a unit to work properly in this substation, multiple monitored landlines must be delivered to the jail in order for a land line home unit to be installed in the actual dorm room. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while in the dorm room. GPS is still an effective solution when the inmate is on the main floor of the substation.



Lennox Sheriff Station-Average Client Count: 12

Cell Coverage: Fair

Berthing Situation: Dorm rooms are separated from the Jailer's office by a concrete wall. Jailer was going to ask about allowing us to set up a cell unit for testing. We have not been approved to place a cell unit in the dorm rooms. Cell coverage should not be an issue; a Cell HMU will work well in this substation.

Recommendation: Test a Cell HMU in the dorm room for a period of one week. Once it is confirmed that the unit will work we should proceed to install a cell unit in this dorm for the inmates. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while in the dorm room. The inclusion zone should be increased to 500 meters to reduce the possibility of erroneous leaves due to drift while inside the facility.

Lomita Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 5

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: The dorm is located in the west section of the station about 15 feet from the Jailer's office. A request was made to have a Cell unit tested in this location, but permission was never granted. Cell coverage should not be an issue here. The GPS units in this location have severe drift because of the location of the station.

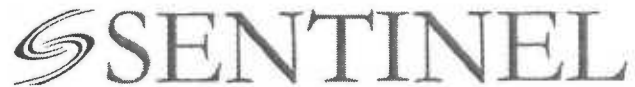
Recommendation: Test a Cell HMU in the dorm room for a period of one week. Once it is confirmed that the unit will work we should proceed to install a cell unit in this dorm for the inmates. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while in the dorm room. The inclusion zone should be increased to 500 meters to reduce the possibility of erroneous leaves due to drift while in the facility.

Lost Hills Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 6

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: The dorm is located towards the front of the jail, but has minimal access to windows or a clear view of the sky. This causes issues with drift and loss of GPS coverage, especially in the morning hours. However, cell coverage should not be an issue here.

Recommendation: Test a Cell HMU in the dorm room for a period of one week. Once it is confirmed that the unit will work, we should proceed to install a cell unit in this dorm for the inmates. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while in the dorm room and eliminate drift while the inmates are sleeping in the dorms. The inclusion zone should be increased to 500 meters to reduce the possibility of erroneous leaves due to drift while inside the facility.



Marina Del Rey Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 4

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: The dorm is located in the center of the jail with no access to windows. This causes severe issues with point drift and loss of GPS, especially in the morning hours. Cell coverage is good here and AFLT is used during the night when GPS is unavailable. We are also having significant issues with inmates not charging their GPS devices properly.

Recommendation: Test a Cell HMU in the dorm room for a period of one week. Once it is confirmed that the unit will work, we should proceed to install a cell unit in this dorm for the inmates. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while inside the dorm room and eliminate drift while the inmates are sleeping in the dorms. The inclusion zone should be increased to 500 meters to reduce the possibility of erroneous leaves due to drift while inside the facility.

Norwalk Sheriff Station: 8

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: The dorm is located in the center of the jail with no access to windows. This causes severe issues with drift and loss of GPS, especially in the morning hours. Cell coverage is good here and AFLT is used during the night when GPS is unavailable.

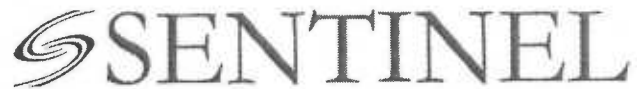
Recommendation: Test a Cell HMU in the dorm room for a period of one week. Once it is confirmed that the unit will work, we should proceed to install a cell unit in this dorm for the inmates. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while in the dorm room and eliminate drift while the inmates are sleeping in the dorms. The inclusion zone should be increased to 500 meters to reduce the possibility of erroneous leaves due to drift while in the facility.

Palmdale Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 6

Cell Coverage: Poor

Berthing Situation: Inmates are not allowed outside for any part of the day. GPS reception is exceptionally poor here, as is cell coverage.

Recommendations: In order for a unit to work properly in this substation, multiple monitored landlines must be delivered to the jail in order for a land line home unit to be installed in the actual dorm room. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while in the dorm room.



Pico Rivera Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 6

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: Inmates sleep in jail cells at this station and do not have access to charging ports in their cells. They use a portable charger to charge their device. The Jailer's office is in the middle of the station and is too far from the cells to place a cell unit there.

Recommendation: Continue using portable chargers and ensure that the inmates are keeping their devices charged at all times. This substation does not lend itself to a home cell unit. The only way to add a cell HMU in this substation is to keep it in the hall where the power outlets are, but security for the device would have to be addressed with station personnel.

San Dimas Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 6

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: Dorm room is located in the center of the jail and a home unit has been tested and is currently working at this station. Cell coverage is good, therefore having a Cell HMU will work well in this station.

Recommendation: Install a cell unit in the dorm for the inmates. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while in the dorm room. The inclusion zone should be increased to 500 meters to reduce the possibility of erroneous leaves due to drift while in the facility.

Santa Clarita Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 8

Cell Coverage: Fair

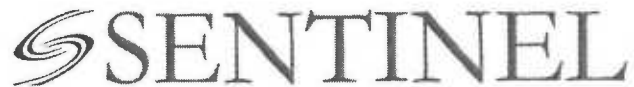
Berthing Situation: Dorm room is located in the center of the jail and GPS availability is very limited here because of the location of the dorm rooms. Point drift is a significant issue because of the lack of proper GPS triangulation.

Recommendation: Test a Cell HMU in the dorm room for a period of one week. Once it is confirmed that the unit will work, we should proceed to install a cell unit in this dorm for the inmates. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while in the dorm room and eliminate point drift while the inmates are sleeping in the dorms. The inclusion zone should be increased to 500 meters to reduce the possibility of erroneous leaves due to drift while in the facility.

Temple Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 8

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: Dorm room is located on the East Side of the station and has some access to windows. GPS signal is not always available because the windows are very small and do not



allow for GPS triangulation. A cell unit was tested in the dorm room and worked well. There are some issues with inmates not charging their devices.

Recommendation: Install a cell unit in this dorm for the inmates. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while in the dorm room and eliminate drift while the inmates are sleeping in the dorms. The inclusion zone should be increased to 500 meters to reduce the possibility of erroneous leaves due to drift while in the facility.

Walnut Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 7

Cell Coverage: Fair

Berthing Situation: A Cell HMU has been tested in this sheriff station. It is located in the living quarters area and works as designed. The unit tracks the inmate while in the living quarters area and in the dorm room successfully.

Recommendation: Install a Cell HMU for each inmate. This will allow us to monitor the inmates while in the dorm room. Also, the inclusion zone should be expanded to 500 meters to prevent erroneous reporting due to GPS drift.

West Hollywood Sheriff Station – Average Client Count: 7

Cell Coverage: Good

Berthing Situation: GPS drift is an issue at this station because of the location of the dorm room. Point drift is creating multiple leave and enter issues because of the "HOME" Inclusion Zone created for this substation. A Cell HMU has not been tested in this sheriff station.

Recommendation: Test a Cell HMU in the dorm room for a period of one week. Once it is confirmed that the unit will work, we should proceed to install a cell unit in this dorm for the inmates. This will allow us to monitor the inmate while in the dorm room and eliminate drift while the inmates are sleeping in the dorms. The inclusion zone should be increased to 500 meters to reduce the possibility of erroneous leaves due to drift while in the facility.

End of Attachment

LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFENDER MONITORING SYSTEM				Attachment B	
MONTH / YEAR:	MONTHLY	AUDIT	FORM		
DEC 1-31, 2013					
TOTAL MONITORS REVIEWED:	584				
TYPE OF ALERTS SEEN: STATION WORKERS				TYPE OF ALERTS SEEN: BACK TREATMENT CENTERS/STU	
Low Battery	28			4	
Tamper Alerts	8			0	
No call back from Sentinel	4			1	
Low battery alerts- no call back from Sentinel				Low battery alert- no call back from Sentinel	
Smith, Djuan #3454969 (Carson Station- 12/18/13)				Nicholas, Nancy #3017785 (Chapman House - 12/18/13)	
Dunzweiler, Alfred #3603048 (West Hollywood- 12/18/13)					
Hammonds, Joshua #3642285 (West Hollywood- 12/19/13)					
Ontiveros, Randy #3592673 (Crescenta Valley - 12/04/13)					
Monitored 584 inmate workers during the month of Dec. re: any changes in alerts, proper charging of ankle monitors, tampering of equipment and/or no signal being received by transmitter unit.					
COMMENTS: The tamper alerts shown above are the results of the ankle monitors being removed by the jailer at the station prior to the inmate worker returning to custody for the purpose of being released or for violating jail rules.					
The multiple low battery alerts are due to the inmates not fully charging the monitors.					